WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of alerting a client of a state change at a remote server, the method comprising: 1 creating a user profile indicating a preference to receive at least one alert 2 corresponding to a change in state at the remote server;

> connecting to a communications system including the remote server; generating an address for the remote server from the user profile;

navigating to the address of the remote server;

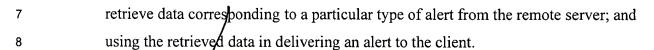
retrieving data corresponding to a particular type of alert from the remote server; and 7 using the retrieved data in delivering an alert to the client. 8

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system comprises an instant 1 messaging system. 2
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the address comprises a uniform resource locator. 1
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein navigating to the address includes using a browser 1 embedded in an Instant messaging client. 2
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the browser comprises a HTTP engine. 1
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising using a graphical user interface to create the user profile. 2
- 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising storing the user profile on a host. 1
- 1 8. The/method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote mail server.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote weather 1
- server. 2
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote stock
- 2 server.

1	11. The method of claim 1, wherein the alert corresponds to a change at a remote third party
2	server.
1	12. A computer program, stored of a computer readable medium, comprising instructions
2	for:
3	creating a user profile indicating a preference to receive at least one alert
4	corresponding to a change in state at the remote server;
5	connecting to a communications system including the remote server;
6	generating an address for the remote server from the user profile;
7	navigating to the address of the remote server;
8	retrieving data corresponding to a particular type of alert from the remote server; and
9	using the retrieved data in delivering an alert to the client.
1	13. The computer program of claim 12, the computer readable medium comprising a
2	disc.
1	14. The computer program of claim 12, the computer readable medium comprising a client
2	device.
1	15. The computer program of claim 12, the computer readable medium commissing a heat
1	15. The computer program of claim 12, the computer readable medium comprising a host
2	device.
1	16. The computer program of claim 12, the computer readable medium comprising a
2	propagated signal.
_	
1	17. A state change alert apparatus, comprising a client configured to:
2	create a user/profile indicating a preference to receive at least one alert corresponding
3	to a change in state at the remote server;
4	connect to a communications system including the remote server;
5	generate an address for the remote server from the user profile;
6	navigate to the address of the remote server

3

Docket No.: 06975-10



- 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client includes an embedded browser.
- 19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the browser is a HTTP engine.
- 1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the client is configured to display a graphical user
- 2 interface to freate the user profile.

- 36 -